



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**Committee Bill No. 226**

LCO No. 6040



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Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM AND  
THE TIMING OF PAYMENT OF CERTAIN GRANTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 9-705 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

4 (a) (1) (A) The qualified candidate committee of a major party  
5 candidate for the office of Governor [who has a primary for nomination  
6 to said office] shall be eligible to receive a grant from the Citizens'  
7 Election Fund for the primary campaign, in accordance with the  
8 provisions of subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of  
9 section 9-706, as amended by this act, and subdivision (2) of subsection  
10 (d) of said section, in the amount of [one million two hundred fifty  
11 thousand] three million two hundred twenty-seven thousand five  
12 hundred dollars, provided, in the case of a primary held in [2014] 2026,  
13 or thereafter, said amount shall be adjusted under subdivision (2) of  
14 subsection (d) of this section.

15 (B) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, the

16 qualified candidate committee of a candidate for the office of Governor  
17 who has been nominated by a major party shall be eligible to receive a  
18 grant from the fund for the general election campaign in the amount of  
19 fifteen million four hundred ninety-two thousand dollars, provided, in  
20 the case of an election held in 2026, or thereafter, said amount shall be  
21 adjusted under subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section.

22 (2) [The] Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, the  
23 qualified candidate committee of a candidate for the office of Governor  
24 who has been nominated by a minor party, or who has qualified to  
25 appear on the election ballot in accordance with the provisions of  
26 subpart C of part III of chapter 153, shall be eligible to receive a grant  
27 from the fund for the general election campaign in the amount of six  
28 million dollars, provided, [(A) any such committee] in the case of an  
29 election held in 2014, or thereafter, said amount shall be adjusted under  
30 subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of this section.

31 (3) Any committee described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1)  
32 of this subsection or in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall receive  
33 (A) seventy-five per cent of [said] the amount provided in said  
34 subdivision, as applicable, if such committee applies for such grant, in  
35 accordance with section 9-706, as amended by this act, on or after the  
36 seventieth day but before the fifty-sixth day preceding the election, (B)  
37 [any such committee shall receive] sixty-five per cent of said amount if  
38 such committee so applies on or after the fifty-sixth day but before the  
39 forty-second day preceding the election, (C) [any such committee shall  
40 receive] fifty-five per cent of said amount if such committee so applies  
41 on or after the forty-second day but before the twenty-eighth day  
42 preceding the election, and (D) [any such committee shall receive] forty  
43 per cent of said amount if such committee so applies on or after the  
44 twenty-eighth day preceding the election. [, and (E) in the case of an  
45 election held in 2014, or thereafter, said amount shall be adjusted under  
46 subsection (d) of this section.]

47 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 9-705 of the general statutes is

48 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
49 *passage*):

50 (d) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, for  
51 elections held in 2014, and thereafter, the amount of the grants in  
52 subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this section shall be adjusted by the State  
53 Elections Enforcement Commission not later than January 15, 2014, and  
54 quadrennially thereafter, in accordance with any change in the  
55 consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the  
56 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during  
57 the period beginning on January 1, 2010, and ending on December  
58 thirty-first in the year preceding the year in which said adjustment is to  
59 be made.

60 (2) For elections held in [2018] 2026, and thereafter, the amount of the  
61 grants in [subsections (a), (b) and (c)] subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of  
62 this section shall be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement  
63 Commission [immediately] not later than January 15, 2026, and  
64 quadrennially thereafter, in accordance with any change in the  
65 consumer price index for all urban consumers as published by the  
66 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during  
67 the period beginning on January 1, [2010] 2022, and ending on  
68 December [31, 2013] thirty-first in the year preceding the year in which  
69 said adjustment is to be made.

70 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 9-706 of the general statutes is  
71 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
72 *passage*):

73 (a) (1) (A) A participating major party candidate for nomination to  
74 the office of Governor in 2026, or thereafter, may apply to the State  
75 Elections Enforcement Commission for a grant from the fund under the  
76 Citizens' Election Program for a primary campaign, at any time after  
77 such candidate files the affidavit under section 9-703 certifying such  
78 candidate's intent to abide by the expenditure limits under said  
79 program.

80     (B) A participating candidate for nomination to the office of state  
81 senator or state representative in [2008] 2024, or thereafter, or the office  
82 of [Governor,] Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State  
83 Comptroller, Secretary of the State or State Treasurer in [2010] 2026, or  
84 thereafter, may apply to the State Elections Enforcement Commission  
85 for a grant from the fund under the Citizens' Election Program for a  
86 primary campaign, after the close of the state convention of the  
87 candidate's party that is called for the purpose of choosing candidates  
88 for nomination for the office that the candidate is seeking, if a primary  
89 is required under chapter 153, and [(A)] (i) said party endorses the  
90 candidate for the office that the candidate is seeking, [(B)] (ii) the  
91 candidate is seeking nomination to the office of [Governor,] Lieutenant  
92 Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or  
93 Secretary of the State or the district office of state senator or state  
94 representative and receives at least fifteen per cent of the votes of the  
95 convention delegates present and voting on any roll-call vote taken on  
96 the endorsement or proposed endorsement of a candidate for the office  
97 the candidate is seeking, or [(C)] (iii) the candidate circulates a petition  
98 and obtains the required number of signatures for filing a candidacy for  
99 nomination for [(i)] (I) the office of [Governor,] Lieutenant Governor,  
100 Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or Secretary of the  
101 State or the district office of state senator or state representative,  
102 pursuant to section 9-400, or [(ii)] (II) the municipal office of state  
103 senator or state representative, pursuant to section 9-406, whichever is  
104 applicable. The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall make  
105 any such grants to participating candidates in accordance with the  
106 provisions of subsections (d) to (g), inclusive, of this section.

107     (2) A participating candidate for nomination to the office of state  
108 senator or state representative in 2008, or thereafter, or the office of  
109 Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, Secretary of the State or  
110 State Treasurer in 2010, or thereafter, may apply to the State Elections  
111 Enforcement Commission for a grant from the fund under the Citizens'  
112 Election Program for a general election campaign:

113 (A) After the close of the state or district convention or municipal  
114 caucus, convention or town committee meeting, whichever is  
115 applicable, of the candidate's party that is called for the purpose of  
116 choosing candidates for nomination for the office that the candidate is  
117 seeking, if (i) said party endorses said candidate for the office that the  
118 candidate is seeking and no other candidate of said party files a  
119 candidacy with the Secretary of the State in accordance with the  
120 provisions of section 9-400 or 9-406, whichever is applicable, (ii) the  
121 candidate is seeking election to the office of Governor, Lieutenant  
122 Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or  
123 Secretary of the State or the district office of state senator or state  
124 representative and receives at least fifteen per cent of the votes of the  
125 convention delegates present and voting on any roll-call vote taken on  
126 the endorsement or proposed endorsement of a candidate for the office  
127 the candidate is seeking, no other candidate for said office at such  
128 convention either receives the party endorsement or said percentage of  
129 said votes for said endorsement or files a certificate of endorsement with  
130 the Secretary of the State in accordance with the provisions of section 9-  
131 388 or a candidacy with the Secretary of the State in accordance with the  
132 provisions of section 9-400, and no other candidate for said office  
133 circulates a petition and obtains the required number of signatures for  
134 filing a candidacy for nomination for said office pursuant to section 9-  
135 400, (iii) the candidate is seeking election to the office of Governor,  
136 Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State  
137 Treasurer or Secretary of the State or the district office of state senator  
138 or state representative, circulates a petition and obtains the required  
139 number of signatures for filing a candidacy for nomination for said  
140 office pursuant to section 9-400 and no other candidate for said office at  
141 the state or district convention either receives the party endorsement or  
142 said percentage of said votes for said endorsement or files a certificate  
143 of endorsement with the Secretary of the State in accordance with the  
144 provisions of section 9-388 or a candidacy with the Secretary of the State  
145 in accordance with the provisions of section 9-400, or (iv) the candidate  
146 is seeking election to the municipal office of state senator or state

147 representative, circulates a petition and obtains the required number of  
148 signatures for filing a candidacy for nomination for the office the  
149 candidate is seeking pursuant to section 9-406 and no other candidate  
150 for said office at the caucus, convention or town committee meeting  
151 either receives the party endorsement or files a certification of  
152 endorsement with the town clerk in accordance with the provisions of  
153 section 9-391;

154 (B) After any primary held by such party for nomination for said  
155 office, if the Secretary of the State declares that the candidate is the party  
156 nominee in accordance with the provisions of section 9-440;

157 (C) In the case of a minor party candidate, after the nomination of  
158 such candidate is certified and filed with the Secretary of the State  
159 pursuant to section 9-452; or

160 (D) In the case of a petitioning party candidate, after approval by the  
161 Secretary of the State of such candidate's nominating petition pursuant  
162 to section 9-453o.

163 (3) A participating candidate for nomination to the office of state  
164 senator or state representative at a special election in 2008, or thereafter,  
165 may apply to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for a grant  
166 from the fund under the Citizens' Election Program for a general  
167 election campaign after the close of the district convention or municipal  
168 caucus, convention or town committee meeting of the candidate's party  
169 that is called for the purpose of choosing candidates for nomination for  
170 the office that the candidate is seeking.

171 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this  
172 subsection, no participating candidate for nomination or election who  
173 changes the candidate's status as a major party, minor party or  
174 petitioning party candidate or becomes a candidate of a different party,  
175 after filing the affidavit required under section 9-703, shall be eligible to  
176 apply for a grant under the Citizens' Election Program for such  
177 candidate's primary campaign for such nomination or general election

178 campaign for such election. The provisions of this subdivision shall not  
179 apply in the case of a candidate who is nominated by more than one  
180 party and does not otherwise change the candidate's status as a major  
181 party, minor party or petitioning party candidate.

182 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, no candidate  
183 may apply to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for a grant  
184 from the fund under the Citizens' Election Program if such candidate  
185 has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, in a court of  
186 competent jurisdiction, any (A) criminal offense under this title unless  
187 at least eight years have elapsed from the date of the conviction or plea  
188 or the completion of any sentence, whichever date is later, without a  
189 subsequent conviction of or plea to another such offense, or (B) a felony  
190 related to the individual's public office, other than an offense under this  
191 title in accordance with subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

192 Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 9-706 of the general statutes is  
193 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
194 *passage*):

195 (d) (1) In accordance with the provisions of subsection (g) of this  
196 section, the commission shall review the application, determine whether  
197 [(1)] (A) the candidate committee for the applicant has received the  
198 required qualifying contributions, [(2)] (B) in the case of an application  
199 for a grant from the fund for a primary campaign, the applicant has met  
200 the applicable condition under subsection (a) of this section for applying  
201 for such grant and complied with the provisions of subsections (b) and  
202 (c) of this section, [(3)] (C) in the case of an application for a grant from  
203 the fund for a general election campaign, the applicant has met the  
204 applicable condition under subsection (a) of this section for applying for  
205 such moneys and complied with the provisions of subsections (b) and  
206 (c) of this section, and [(4)] (D) in the case of an application by a minor  
207 party or petitioning party candidate for a grant from the fund for a  
208 general election campaign, the applicant qualifies as an eligible minor  
209 party candidate or an eligible petitioning party candidate, whichever is

210 applicable. If the commission approves an application, the commission  
211 shall determine the amount of the grant payable to the candidate  
212 committee for the applicant pursuant to section 9-705, as amended by  
213 this act, from the fund, and notify the State Comptroller and the  
214 candidate of such candidate committee, of such amount. If the timing of  
215 the commission's approval of the grant in relation to the Secretary of the  
216 State's determination of ballot status is such that the commission cannot  
217 determine whether the qualified candidate committee is entitled to the  
218 applicable full initial grant for the primary or election or the applicable  
219 partial grant for the primary or election, as the case may be, the  
220 commission shall approve the lesser applicable partial initial grant. The  
221 commission shall then authorize the payment of the remaining portion  
222 of the applicable grant after the commission has knowledge of the  
223 circumstances regarding the ballot status of the opposing candidates in  
224 such primary or election. Not later than two business days following  
225 notification by the commission, the State Comptroller shall draw an  
226 order on the State Treasurer for payment of any such approved amount  
227 to the qualified candidate committee from the fund.

228 (2) (A) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
229 subsection, in the case of a participating candidate for nomination to the  
230 office of Governor applying for a grant for a primary campaign  
231 pursuant to subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this  
232 section, if the commission approves such application, the commission  
233 shall determine the amount of the grant payable to the candidate  
234 committee for such candidate pursuant to section 9-705, as amended by  
235 this act, from the fund, and notify the State Comptroller and such  
236 candidate of such amount, and shall authorize the payment of one-  
237 fourth of the amount of such grant in accordance with subparagraph  
238 (B)(i) of this subdivision. After the close of the state convention of such  
239 candidate's party that is called for the purpose of choosing a candidate  
240 for nomination for the office of Governor, if a primary is required under  
241 chapter 153, and (i) said party endorses the candidate for Governor, (ii)  
242 the candidate is seeking nomination to the office of Governor and  
243 receives at least fifteen per cent of the votes of the convention delegates



244 present and voting on any roll-call vote taken on the endorsement or  
245 proposed endorsement of a candidate for Governor, or (iii) the  
246 candidate circulates a petition and obtains the required number of  
247 signatures for filing a candidacy for nomination for the office of  
248 Governor pursuant to section 9-400, the commission shall authorize the  
249 payment of the remaining three-fourths of the amount of such grant in  
250 accordance with subparagraph (B)(ii) of this subdivision, except that the  
251 commission shall authorize the payment of the full amount of the grant  
252 for a primary campaign to the candidate committee for such candidate  
253 if such candidate's application and the commission's approval thereof  
254 occurred after the state convention and the commission did not  
255 previously authorize the payment of the one-fourth amount of such  
256 grant to such candidate committee.

257 (B) (i) Not later than thirty days after the commission's approval of a  
258 primary grant application under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision,  
259 the State Comptroller shall draw an order on the State Treasurer for  
260 payment of one-fourth of the approved amount to the qualified  
261 candidate committee from the fund.

262 (ii) (I) In the case of a candidate described in subparagraph (A)(i) or  
263 (A)(ii) of this subdivision, not later than two business days after the close  
264 of the state convention, the State Comptroller shall draw an order on the  
265 State Treasurer for payment of the remaining three-fourths of the  
266 approved amount to the qualified candidate committee from the fund.

267 (II) In the case of a candidate described in subparagraph (A)(iii) of  
268 this subdivision, not later than two business days after such candidate  
269 files a candidacy for nomination, the State Comptroller shall draw an  
270 order on the State Treasurer for payment of the remaining three-fourths  
271 of the approved amount to the qualified candidate committee from the  
272 fund.

273 Sec. 5. Subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of section 9-706 of the general  
274 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
275 (Effective from passage):

276 (g) (1) Any application submitted pursuant to this section for a  
277 primary or general election shall be submitted in accordance with the  
278 following schedule: (A) By five o'clock p.m. on the third Wednesday in  
279 May of the year that the primary or election will be held at which such  
280 participating candidate will seek nomination or election, or (B) by five  
281 o'clock p.m. on any subsequent Wednesday of such year, provided no  
282 application shall be accepted by the commission after five o'clock p.m.  
283 on or after the fourth to last Friday prior to the primary or election at  
284 which such participating candidate will seek nomination or election.  
285 Not later than five business days following any such Wednesday or  
286 Friday, as applicable, for participating candidates seeking nomination  
287 or election to the office of state senator or state representative, or ten  
288 business days following any such Wednesday or Friday, as applicable,  
289 for participating candidates seeking nomination or election to the office  
290 of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State  
291 Comptroller, State Treasurer or Secretary of the State or, in the event of  
292 a national, regional or local emergency or local natural disaster, as soon  
293 thereafter as is practicable, the commission shall review any application  
294 received by such Wednesday or Friday, in accordance with the  
295 provisions of subsection (d) of this section, and determine whether such  
296 application shall be approved or disapproved. Notwithstanding the  
297 provisions of this subsection, if an application for a primary grant is  
298 received prior to the deadline set forth in subparagraph (A) of this  
299 subdivision, pursuant to subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of  
300 subsection (a) of this section for a participating candidate seeking  
301 nomination to the office of Governor, the commission shall review such  
302 application in accordance with the provisions of subsection (d) of this  
303 section and determine whether such application shall be approved or  
304 disapproved not later than ten business days following such receipt.  
305 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, if an application for  
306 a general election grant is received during the period beginning at five  
307 [o'clock] o'clock p.m. on the Wednesday of the week preceding the week  
308 of the last primary application deadline and ending five [o'clock] o'clock  
309 p.m. on the last primary application deadline, as set forth in this

310 subsection, the commission shall review such application in accordance  
311 with the provisions of subsection (d) of this section and determine  
312 whether [it] such application shall be approved or disapproved not later  
313 than five business days or ten business days, as applicable, after the first  
314 application deadline following the last primary application deadline.  
315 [For] Except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this  
316 section, for any such application that is approved, any disbursement of  
317 funds by the commission shall be made not later than twelve business  
318 days prior to any such primary or general election. From the third week  
319 of June in even-numbered years until the third week in July, the  
320 commission shall meet twice weekly to determine whether or not to  
321 approve applications for grants if there are pending grant applications.

322 Sec. 6. Subsection (c) of section 9-702 of the general statutes is  
323 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
324 *passage*):

325 (c) A candidate participating in the Citizens' Election Program shall  
326 limit the expenditures of the candidate's candidate committee [(A)] (1)  
327 in the case of a major party candidate for Governor, before the close of  
328 the state convention of such candidate's party that is called for the  
329 purpose of choosing a candidate for nomination for such office, to one-  
330 fourth of the amount of the primary campaign grant authorized for  
331 payment by the commission under subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of  
332 section 9-706, as amended by this act, and the amount of qualifying  
333 contributions permitted in section 9-704 and any personal funds  
334 provided by the candidate under subsection (c) of section 9-710, (2)  
335 before a primary campaign and a general election campaign, to the  
336 amount of qualifying contributions permitted in section 9-704 and any  
337 personal funds provided by the candidate under subsection (c) of  
338 section 9-710, [(B)] (3) for a primary campaign, to the sum of [(i)] (A) the  
339 amount of such qualifying contributions and personal funds that have  
340 not been spent before the primary campaign, and [(ii)] (B) the amount  
341 of the grant for the primary campaign authorized under section 9-705,  
342 as amended by this act, and [(C)] (4) for a general election campaign, to

343 the sum of [(i)] (A) the amount of such qualifying contributions and  
 344 personal funds that have not been spent before the general election  
 345 campaign, [(ii)] (B) any unexpended funds from any grant for a primary  
 346 campaign authorized under section 9-705, as amended by this act, and  
 347 [(iii)] (C) the amount of the grant for the general election campaign  
 348 authorized under section 9-705, as amended by this act. The candidate  
 349 committee of a minor or petitioning party candidate who has received a  
 350 general election campaign grant from the fund pursuant to section 9-  
 351 705, as amended by this act, shall be permitted to receive contributions  
 352 in addition to the qualifying contributions subject to the limitations and  
 353 restrictions applicable to participating candidates for the same office,  
 354 provided such minor or petitioning party candidate shall limit the  
 355 expenditures of the candidate committee for a general election  
 356 campaign to the sum of the qualifying contributions and personal funds,  
 357 the amount of the general election campaign grant received and the  
 358 amount raised in additional contributions that is equivalent to the  
 359 difference between the amount of the applicable general election  
 360 campaign grant for a major party candidate for such office and the  
 361 amount of the general election campaign grant received by such minor  
 362 or petitioning party candidate.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-705(a)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-705(d)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-706(a)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-706(d)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	9-706(g)(1)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	9-702(c)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) double the primary and general election grant amounts for major  
 party candidates for Governor under the Citizens' Election Program,  
 and (2) allow gubernatorial candidates participating in said program to  
 apply for and receive (A) one-fourth of the grant amount for a primary  
 campaign without waiting until the close of the state convention, and

(B) the remaining three-fourths upon the occurrence of certain triggering events.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

S.B. 226